

- Country level appraisal of habitat fragmentation has been done to facilitate restorative inputs.
- All India comparative assessment of forest cover status in tiger reserves and their surrounding areas upto a radius of ten kms. has been carried out in collaboration with Forest Survey of India.
- All India Assessment of Tiger status (mapping of tiger presence, breeding units, habitat quality at the taluk level resolution) in the GIS domain has been carried out in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India.

Damage to agriculture by tuskers in Goa

310. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether increasing instances of wild tuskers intruding in the territory of Goa from the border States of Karnataka and Maharashtra causing immense damage to the agriculture and even threatening the lives of villagers, have come to the notice of Government;
- (b) the number of such incidents of damage to agriculture, have taken place in Goa;
- (c) whether the Government of Goa have taken steps to curb the menace with the help of Central Authorities, the Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra;
- (d) whether there is any Central Scheme to compensate farmers in such circumstances; and
- (e) if so, the assistance given under the scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per reports received from the State Government occasional incidence of crop damage has taken place in Goa since the year 2003. On receipt of the report from the State Government in the year 2006, Ministry constituted a Committee to inspect the area and to hold meeting with State officials from Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka and to

suggest mitigating measures. The Committee after inspection and detailed discussion with the local officials of the three States submitted the report suggesting action on the part of three States as well as Central Government. One of the important recommendations was to create Inter State Coordination Committee to deal with the situation. Since the elephants originally migrate from Karnataka, Government of Karnataka was requested to constitute a Coordination Committee. The Government of Karnataka has constituted the Committee under the chairmanship of Conservator of Forest, Kanara Circle.

(d) and (e) Ministry do provide financial assistance to States/UTs under the Project Elephant Scheme to compensate farmers. Based on the report of the Committee, Ministry has decided to provide financial and technical assistance to Government of Goa to deal with the situation. The State Government has been requested to submit Action Plan so that necessary funds are released to the State. The Action Plan from Government of Goa is awaited.

Forest cover in Goa

311. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the assessed area of forest cover of the State of Goa in the years 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001;
- (b) the steps taken by Central Government and the State Government for the purpose of increasing forest cover;
- (c) the area covered by Government forests and private forests, respectively, as on date;
- (d) the methodology adopted by the authorities to assess Government forests and private forests;
- (e) whether it is a fact that these assessments are faulty and without documentary basis;
- (f) whether Government have issued any guidelines to the State Governments in the matter of assessing forest lands; and
- (g) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The assessment of